



SOUTHEAST NEWS

February - March 2008

Southeast Elementary School, 134 Warrenville Rd., Mansfield Center, CT 06250 423-1611

Dear Southeast Families,

Once again it is time to schedule our Kindergarten Registration. We are asking your help in identifying all children who will be eligible to attend kindergarten for the 2008-09 school year.

If you have a child or know of a child who will be five years old on or before January 1, 2009, please contact the school office at 423-1611. We are gathering all names and addresses in order to send out invitations to the activities necessary to register your child.

Please feel free to call the above telephone number with any questions you may have.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Norma Fisher-Doiron

Connecticut Mastery Test

We will begin our testing sessions of the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) for grades 3 and 4 on February 29th. Test sessions will include testing in the areas of math, reading/language arts and writing. We hope to have all testing sessions completed by March 11. Make-up dates will be March 12 - 20.

We ask that you help us by seeing that your child has enough sleep each night, a good breakfast, and that you provide support by realizing this is a somewhat stressful time for children. We will provide some practice tests in order to familiarize the children with the kinds of test questions and procedures used on the CMT.





If you have any questions regarding CMT testing, please feel free to call.

Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation.


~ C. Everett Koop

Calendar of Events

February

Feb. 2.....	Groundhog Day	
Feb. 4.....	6:00 Parents' Hour: School Building Presentation by Richard Lawrence	
	7:00 PTO Meeting	
Feb. 5.....	6:30 Circus Performance- Grades K-2	
Feb. 6.....	6:30 Circus Performance- Grades 3-4	
Feb. 7.....	7:30 Board of Education Meeting	
Feb. 12.....	Lincoln's Birthday- School in Session	
Feb. 14.....	Valentine's Day	
Feb. 18.....	President's Day	
Feb. 18 - 22.....	February Vacation NO SCHOOL all week	
Feb. 18.....	President's Day	
Feb. 23.....	5:30 - 6:30 SE Family Skating at UCONN	
Feb. 29 - March 11.....	CMT Testing, Grades 3 & 4	

March

Feb. 29 - March 11.....	CMT Testing, Grades 3 & 4	
March 3.....	6:00 Parents' Hour 7:00 PTO Meeting	
March 7.....	Progress Reports go home	
March 9.....	Daylight Savings Time Begins	
March 12 - 20.....	CMT Make-up Dates	
March 13.....	7:30 Board of Education Meeting	
March 17.....	St. Patrick's Day	
March 18.....	"Amazing Americans" Assembly	
March 19.....	COLT Rhymes Celebration	
March 21.....	Good Friday - NO SCHOOL	
March 24.....	Professional Development Day NO SCHOOL	
March 26.....	6:30 Science Fair / Invention Convention	
March 26.....	Rain date- COLT Rhymes Celebration	

Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793

Please visit our website www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast

Norma Fisher-Doiron, finalist in the Connecticut Association of Schools 2008 National Distinguished Principal Award.

Please join the Southeast staff in congratulating Norma Fisher-Doiron for being selected as a finalist in the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) 2008 National Distinguished Principal Award. This award is designed to recognize outstanding elementary school principals who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership, a passion for educational excellence, a commitment to their students and staff, and service to their communities. The CAS selection committee will be conducting a school visit on March 28 as the final step of the process to determine the award recipient.

We are all extremely proud of Mrs. Fisher-Doiron and wish her every success.

Southeast World Language Students will take Spanish on the Road!

As in prior years, a group of Southeast students were selected to attend an event called "The Connecticut COLT Rhyme Celebration" which takes place in Marlborough, CT on Wednesday, March 19, 2008. This event is attended by World Language students from across the state in grades pre-school through sixth. The students present a song, a rhyme or a chant in the language they are studying. This year the theme is "We All Laugh in the Same Language" so all acts will pertain to or hopefully even create some laughter.

Because only seven students from each school can be selected to go, it is very difficult to choose who should represent our school. To help Señora Hutton make her decision, those who expressed an interest in participating were asked to write a few sentences about why they would be a great choice for this honor. While the decision was still a tough one, the selection has been made and the following outstanding fourth grade students will represent Southeast School this year: Jessenia Gonzalez, Bishop Clark, Nicholas Porebski, Laura Blum, Erin Sweeney, Victoria Salai, and Olivia Cox. Congratulations to all of these students!



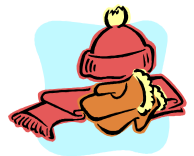
Priska Burkhard to Represent Southeast School in National Geographic Bee



The fourth grade held their annual Geography Bee during the third week of January. This is an opportunity for all students to learn about geography in a friendly competition. This is a national competition open to all fourth through eighth graders. The Bee is a program written by the National Geographic Society. The preliminary competition consists of seven rounds of questions covering topics such as physical geography, resources and conservation, culture, economics, United States and the world. The format calls for brief answers, usually only a word or a phrase. Questions may require interpretation of maps, graphs, and photographs. Students have only fifteen seconds to respond to each question. The final competition consists of a Final Round and a Championship Round.

There were six students who qualified for the semifinalist round. After a series of questions, one student, Priska Burkhard, qualified as our finalist. In order to qualify for the state competition, she had to answer seventy written questions in sixty minutes. We are eagerly awaiting the results of this test. Notification will be received at our school by March 15th. Congratulations to all fourth graders! We are so very proud of you.

The Giving Tree was a Tree-mendous Success



Mansfield Youth Services would like to thank the families and staff of Southeast School for the donations of hats, scarves and mittens. All together, 125 pieces were collected and distributed to keep children warm this winter.

WINTER WEATHER, DELAYED OPENINGS, EMERGENCY EARLY CLOSINGS



During the winter months, the possibility exists for storms that would require the Superintendent to order a delayed opening or emergency early closing. If school is delayed by 90 minutes, school will start at 10:30 and students should arrive **no earlier than 10:15**.

There is no before school child care available.

Just a reminder . . . be aware of delayed openings and early closings or cancellations by listening to the radio or TV and to make arrangements for childcare.

For more information about delays and emergency early closings, please log on to our website:

www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast



Stories for Southeast ***The Gift That Keeps on Giving***

We would like to thank the individuals below for their purchase of the following books for our school library:

- The Clue in the Corn Maze.....In memory of Ralph P. Giarusso....from the Southeast PTO
- The Ice Cream Mystery.....In memory of Ralph P. Giarusso....from Norma Fisher-Doiron
- The Sword of the Silver Knight....In memory of Ralph P. Giarusso...from the Southeast Staff



The Southeast Science Fair and Invention Convention

has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 26th. All students are invited to participate. Families should watch for notices to come home on February 8th and check for the link in the What's New section of our Southeast Web Page. The Science Fair web page has packets and internet links designed to provide support for families who choose to take part in this exciting and educational event.

Parents' Hour

Renovation & Construction Project

Presentation by

Rick Lawrence, Chief Architect
Gordon Schimmel, Superintendent



Monday, February 4th
6:00 - 7:00 PM
Room 19



Childcare will be available in Room 18.
Refreshments will be served
Please call 423-1611 to arrange for childcare.

**This presentation is open to all
Parents/guardians of the
Southeast Community.**



Green Thumbs Thanks Mr. Sean Cassells

The Green Thumbs Club would like to thank Mr. Sean Cassells for his generosity to the club's fundraising efforts. Mr. Cassells has two children, Carlie and Coby, who attend Southeast School. Earlier this year he installed a water bottle, machine in the school, from the Village Springs Corporation and has been donating all proceeds to the Green Thumbs Club.



The club routinely provides financial support for the school's greenhouse, gardens and various recycling efforts. In the past, the club has also made donations to the PTO Playscape Fundraising Project and has provided support for High Touch High Tech science workshops for grades 3 and 4.

We are very grateful to Mr. Cassells for his support so that we can continue to assist in providing enriching experiences for the children of Southeast.

Come One, Come All to the Southeast Super Circus

Students have been working enthusiastically since December on music, art, and circus acts. This is a culmination of so many skills and is a way for us to showcase our student talents. The kids are really excited to do this for their families. It shows what a great place Southeast is for students, families, staff, and community members.



Grades K, 1, 2 will perform
Feb. 5- show begins at 6:30.

Grades 3, 4 will perform
Feb. 6- show begins at 6:30.

We are all Southeast Superheroes!

MANY THANKS

To our parents who volunteer to help during these busy school days. And, of course, thank you to our PTO officers this year—

President.....Kim O'Keefe
Vice President....Kimberly Christenson
Secretary.....Monique Brown
Treasurer.....Lesley Sweeney





PTO Happenings:

Spring Fundraisers

Munson's Chocolates- If you are ordering Easter Chocolates from the Munson's flyer, please make sure your order is in BEFORE February 15. Munson's cannot guarantee the specialty Easter Chocolates after this date. If you are not ordering the specialty Easter Chocolates you have until February 20. For those who don't know about Munson's Chocolates, they are Connecticut's largest retail chocolate manufacturer since 1946 and have won many awards for their quality.

(See www.munsonschocolates.com/ for more information)

Butter Braids & Cookie Dough- You will be receiving the Butter Braid/Cookie Dough flyer during the week of February 11. Orders need to be returned by Tuesday, March 4. These yummy frozen pastries expand to more than triple their size when baked but store easily in your freezer. The cookie dough comes in flat break off cubes and also stores easily in your freezer!



For any questions about this fundraiser, please call Karen Sommer at 429-1989. She could use a couple of people to help on distribution day, which is March 18, 1:30-3:30. Please call if you can help.



Family Skate Night

Please join us on Saturday, February 23rd from 5:30 to 6:30 at the UCONN ice rink for the Southeast Family Skate Night.

This is a PTO sponsored event that is being paid for by the Law Office of Andrew W. Ewalt. Skates will be available for rent at the rink for \$4.00 a pair.

It will be a fun night for all. Please join us!

Fundraiser Results

The Fall Carnival brought in \$11,544.05

The Wrapping Paper brought in \$1,432.52

The G & L Christmas Store brought in \$201.00

Many thanks to everyone who contributed their time and efforts into these fundraisers which help provide activities and events that enrich the total school curriculum.

Rob Surette - Amazing Hero Art

On Monday, January 7th, we hosted **Rob Surette of Amazing Hero Art** at Southeast School. Students, staff and parents were indeed amazed at Mr. Surette's performance which featured 7 celebrated and heroic people. Mr. Surette is well-known as "the fastest portrait artist in the world" but his show was much more than a painting demonstration.



Mr. Surette emphasized many of the "superhero" qualities that we discuss at Southeast. The theme of "**Be Somebody**" was woven throughout the show to emphasize that everyone can make a difference if they work hard and care for others. While he painted a map of the United States, the Statue of Liberty and a portrait of Abraham Lincoln, we heard music and a video played in which Americans spoke about *Respect*. *Helping others* was the message while he painted Mother Theresa and *Creativity* was evident as Einstein and Beethoven appeared on the canvases. Martin Luther King Jr.'s moving *I Have a Dream* speech played while Mr. Surette painted his portrait and encouraged everyone to *Make a Difference*. Southeast students took his message to heart and **Be Somebody** is heard in classrooms and in the halls.

Through generous donations from the Southeast PTO, and some Southeast parents, as well as Mrs. Fisher-Doiron, we were able to purchase 5 giant portraits for our school. Visitors to Southeast have seen them throughout the school—Abraham Lincoln, Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King, Jr., Albert Einstein and Ludwig Beethoven. We hope they will be daily reminders to **respect** and **help others**, to **be creative** in how we solve problems and that every student at Southeast School can **make a difference**. Families are invited to visit Mr. Surette's website:



www.amazingheroart.com

The Southeast Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization Needs Volunteers for Many Activities

The PTO serves the school in many capacities. If you have a child enrolled at Southeast Elementary School, you are automatically a member of the Southeast PTO. Please consider attending our meetings which are normally held on the first Monday of every month. Agendas and minutes are sent home in your child's Friday mail. If you decide to attend a meeting, child care is available by contacting the school before the meeting.

February is Healthy Heart Month



Face the Fats and Meet the Bad Fats Brothers
Many Americans are confused about fats. Take our crash 'Fats 101' course on fats. Use the 'My Fats Translator' calculator to get calorie and fats recommendations just for you. Learn how you can live fat-sensibly when eating out or cooking at home. Be sure to meet the Bad Fats Brothers, Sat and Trans, and don't let them break your heart. Log on to:

www.heart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3046074

March is Nutrition Month

Sometimes it seems like nothing short of a miraculous feat to get everyone around the table eating the same meal at the same time. Family meals are well worth the planning and effort, though. Eating together on a routine basis contributes to good nutrition, improved communication and stronger family bonds. Research shows that children who eat frequent family meals have better health, perform better academically and even engage in fewer high-risk behaviors as teens.



In addition to committing to shared family meals, here are a few additional "food rules" that promote the development of healthy eating habits in children:

- **Disband the Clean Plate Club-** When presented with a variety of healthful foods, children have an innate ability to regulate their food intake. Don't push or negotiate for "one more bite" once your child indicates he is full.
- **Begin with Breakfast-** Start each day with a balanced breakfast that includes at least three food groups. Studies confirm that kids can think, focus and concentrate better when they eat a morning meal.
- **Be a Smart Snacker-** Children need snacks to refuel and squeeze in important nutrients. Just make sure after-school and bedtime snacks contain at least two food groups. Snacks should not be confused with "treats" such as soft drinks, fried chips, cookies or candy.
- **Practice Persistence-** For some kids, it may take 10 or more exposures to a new food before they will take the first taste. Continue to serve and offer your child a variety of foods but don't force the issue. Fortunately, tastes tend to change as children mature.
- **Set limits on Fun Foods and Fast Foods-** Limit, but don't forbid occasional fast food meals and treats. Increasingly, fast food restaurants are featuring more healthful choices. When dining out, encourage your child to choose milk over soda pop and salads or apples instead of fries.

Connie Evers, MS, RD pbs.org

Parents need to fill a child's bucket of self-esteem so high that the rest of the world can't poke enough holes in it to drain it dry.

~ Alvin Price

February is also Dental Health Month



Having a healthy smile starts with a child's first tooth. February is National Children's Dental Health Month, a good time to make sure children have regular check-ups and are brushing two to three times a day.

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the American Dental Association advises children see a dentist when the first tooth comes in or no later than the child's first birthday. A checkup every six months is recommended in order to prevent cavities and other dental problems. However, a pediatric dentist can tell you when and how often your child should visit based on the child's personal oral health.

Toy Recalls

With the number of toy recalls increasing daily, it can be tough to keep track of these unsafe products. If you'd like the recalls sent to you directly, you can sign up on the Consumer Product Safety Commission's website at www.cpsc.gov. You can also choose the types of products for which you'd like to receive information.

Get Up and Go!

February Theme: Find ways to bring outdoor games inside.

Mini soccer: Place goals made out of shoe boxes at opposite ends of the house. Using a small ball, take turns defending the goals and trying to score by steering the ball with your feet.

More ideas:

- Play balloon volleyball over an imaginary net.
- Clear a space in the basement or garage for rollerblading.
- Have an indoor "snowball" fight with loosely wadded newspaper balls.

March Theme: Look beyond organized sports. Invest in basic equipment (ball, jump rope), and invent your own games.

Widen the river: Lay two jump ropes a foot apart and parallel to each other. The space between the ropes is the river. Take turns jumping the river, widening the distance between the ropes after each turn. The last person to jump the river wins.

More ideas:

- Dribble a basketball through a homemade obstacle course (around a lawn chair, over a picnic bench, between two bikes, and back.)
- Hang a hula hoop from a clothesline as a target for Frisbee toss.
- Try to keep a badminton birdie in the air using only your palms.

